

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 82, Number 36

Remembering since 1911

Wednesday, November 11, 1992

Island mayors kill greenspace acquisition

BY RON LACHMAN

MOVE BY MONTRÉAL URBAN COMMUNITY ANGERS THOSE WHO SEE SHORTAGE OF GREENSPACE

A recent move by the Montréal Urban Community to put greenspace acquisition on hold for three years is angering some city councillors and environmental activists.

The Montréal Urban Community (MUC) claims that budgetary restraints are necessary, but others say that it is only a token measure to appeal cost-cutting behemoths.

Council launched a plan to acquire more green space over two years ago, committing \$200 million to the acquisition and maintenance of green spaces in Montréal. Those who lobbied for the plan are angered at the moratorium that has now been placed on it.

"It's a very short-sighted decision," said Marvin Rotrand, a city councillor for the Democratic Coalition of Montreal (DCM). "This city no longer has any coherent plan to protect its green spaces."

Montréal has relatively few green spaces for its size. Toronto and Vancouver have seven to ten times as much. The MUC council decided to act after considerable pressure from environmental lobby groups and DCM councillors like Rotrand.

In June, 1990, council adopted a plan called "The

MUC...Naturally". So far, \$100 million has been spent on purchasing and improving public access to green spaces. Bois-Franc and the Ile Bizard woodlands were acquired, and four other sites including Cap-Saint-Jacques and Bois-de-la-Reparation became regional parks. By next year council had expected to increase MUC-owned green spaces from 900 to 1,600 hectares.

But last September the mayors of the island of Montreal's 29 municipalities voted to put the plan on hiatus, citing the economy as a factor in their decision. Richard Quirion, the mayor of Anjou, said it was a tough call.

"This decision was not made lightly," he said. "We discussed it many times. We decided that quite a bit had been spent already on the program and it was time to address our other priorities."

Lost forever

Diane Fauteux is the soon-to-be executive director of the Green Coalition, an umbrella group for 40 environmental organizations. She said the green space plan accounts for less than one percent of the total MUC budget. Fauteux attended the

mayors' meeting, and said many of them appeared to be out of touch with the issue.

"Some of them don't even know how much their municipality contributes to the plan," she said. "They voted for the moratorium because they think it will lower taxes on their people. They're living in bubbles."

Fauteux also took an impromptu poll to find out how many of the 22 mayors present consulted their constituents before voting on the moratorium. Only four raised their hands.

Quirion dismisses these concerns.

"I am elected by my constituents to make decisions on their behalf," he said. "Thirty-six percent of my budget goes to the MUC. That's twenty million dollars. Do I not have a right to decide how that money is spent?"

On October 8 the MUC's seven member Planning Commission voted 4-3 to adopt the mayors' recommendation. Two weeks later a majority of Montréal's 50 city councillors followed suit, making the three-year moratorium official.

Marvin Rotrand said he's angry that the councillors failed to block

what he calls a power grab by the municipalities.

"The suburbs are afraid they might be amalgamated," he said. "So they try to weaken the MUC by voting against any shared cost program. And instead of playing hardball, Montréal has put up a token resistance."

Quirion calls Rotrand's allegations "nonsense."

"If that were so, we would always be voting against the MUC," he said. "We do clash, but we agree on many things."

The MUC stands to lose three green spaces it was in the process of buying when the moratorium was declared. The council had placed a freeze on development in the Bois Outremont, the Ruisseau de Montigny in Anjou and Forest number three in Ste. Anne de Bellevue. But Giovanni Dimachelli, a city councillor on the Planning Commission, said owners of the lands might take legal action to have the freeze removed.

"It is unfair for us to tell them yes, we'll buy their property, and then make them wait for three years," said Dimachelli. "They will take us to court and sue us for compensation. Then they'll go ahead



Marvin Rotrand, 1990

and develop the land."

It would cost \$17 million to purchase all three properties. The council will decide in December whether to buy the land in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, two-thirds of which it already owns. But Dimachelli said he's afraid the death knell has been sounded for the green space plan as a whole.

"Perhaps it's gone forever," he said. "Who's to say the economy will be any better in three years? Maybe it'll be worse."

NOBEL LAUREATE CALLS FOR EVERYONE TO WORK FOR PEACE.

"This is the decade for change" — Menchu

BY KATHY BUNKA

Rigoberta Menchu Tum makes people complaining about petty troubles look bad.

This year's Nobel Peace Prize winner has endured a life of poverty and civil war, she has witnessed the slaughter of her family and many of her fellow freedom fighters, and she has been driven into exile. Yet she is confident that this is the decade for change.

In pursuit of change, she will give her \$1.2 million Nobel prize to the campaign for peace in her native Guatemala. "The walls barring peace have already started to fall," she said.

Speaking to hundreds of people at UQAM Monday night (while hundreds more watched her on a screen in the hall outside), she downplayed her own importance. "My presence here doesn't really have much to do with world problems," she said. "My presence here is modest."

Menchu stressed that everyone had a role to play in the search for peace. "The people in our Universities, in community organizations, groups campaigning for development and human rights, young people and women's groups must come together in solidarity to come up with concrete solutions."

Menchu insisted that people should find new ways of thinking. "There are a number of stereotypes about aborigines," she said. "We call on you to accept our folklore and treat us as your brothers."

She acknowledged that the attainment of mutual respect is a difficult process. "So begin with your neighbour, and then move on to the area where you live — in time this will extend to the whole world," she said.

In her book, *I... Rigoberta Menchu*, she talks about her experiences, and the troubles of her people, the Quiche Indians. She delineates the cultural aspects of the Quiche Indians that make them stand apart.

"We Indians have more contact with nature. That's why they call us polytheistic...we think of the earth as the mother of man, and our parents teach us to respect the earth. We must only harm the earth when we are in need. This is why, before we sow our maize, we have to ask the earth's permission."

It is a philosophy that should unite rather than divide different cultures. "We're made of white maize and yellow maize," she writes, referring to all of humanity.

A frequent theme in her writing and speeches is that people have lost respect for simplicity. "Neither technology nor modernization has found a cure for hunger, and our young people are in despair." Following a native custom, she prescribes the counsel of the elders to imbue youth with hope. When she was a young girl, her father used to say to her, "This is our life: we must suffer it but we must also enjoy it. The youth of the future must aspire to live better than we have — they must confront racism

and discrimination," said Menchu.

Menchu once wrote that, "I'd always see my mother cry...I was afraid of life and asked myself, what will it be like when I'm grown up?" Her own achievements are a sign of hope.

"I am proud to be a woman, proud to be an aboriginal, proud to be Guatemalan, proud to be from Central America, and proud to have been born poor," she said, and added, "I say this knowing that these days I am guaranteed my next meal."

The decision of the Norwegian Nobel Committee to award the 1992 Peace Prize to Rigoberta Menchu is controversial.

Firstly, Menchu does not denounce armed struggle. After receiving news of the award, she was quoted in the *New York Times* saying "I may not share pacifist ideas completely, that man should not act. I think he should, especially when it is war in America."

Also, Guatemalan government officials object to Menchu getting the prize. They claim she is allied

with leftist guerillas. Guatemala's foreign minister, Gonzalo Menendez Park, told the *Times* that she should not have received the prize, "because she is tied to certain groups that have endangered Guatemala."

The country, under the military since 1954, was restored to civilian rule in 1986. Peace talks between the Government and rebel opposition leaders are at a stalemate over the crucial issue of human rights. Despite the present instability, Menchu hopes to begin the difficult process of resettling refugees.

She will spend Christmas in Guatemala, and then travel to Mexico to spend the New Year in the refugee camps. Her intention is to convince the refugees, some who have been in Mexico since the military seized power, to head back to Guatemala. She is unsure how the Government will respond to her plans. Fearing their lives may be endangered she said, "I hope we will still be in good health when we get to Guatemala."

David Rodowick
Rochester University
"A Short History of Cinema,
or Gilles Deleuze's Time-Machine"
Free of charge

November 13, 2 pm Location: GPC
3465 Peel st.

PEEL PLAZA DELI

Delicious take-out sand-
wiches always ready or
prepared for you while you
wait.

- Pastries
- Groceries
- Spanakopita
- Meats & Cheeses
- Beer & Wine
- 8 am - 9 pm
& Sundays

PEEL PLAZA BLDG.
3460 PEEL ST.
843-3053

An ♥ de Montréal



RESTAURANT SHOWBAR
1106 de Maisonneuve Ouest • 845-9002
LA TAVERNE
1107 Ste-Catherine Ouest • 844-6769

DAILY PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1992
STUDENT UNION BUILDING
ROOM 435, 9:00 AM

R.S.V.P. 398-6790 (ASK FOR MICHELE)

Notice of Employment

Applications are invited for a position as Research Assistant to work on molecular and biochemical aspects of fungi. The work involves isolation of fungal DNA, RNA, protein, cloning and sequencing. Candidates must have a B.Sc. or M.Sc. and a strong background in molecular biology and/or biochemistry. The position is available immediately with a tenure of 2 years depending on availability of funds. Applicants should forward their CV, description of course work and 2 letters of reference to:

Dr. S.J. Hare
Plant Science Department
McGill University Macdonald Campus
21,111 Lakeshore Road
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Québec
H9X 3V9

Tel: 514-398-7561



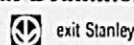
McGILL GRADUATES
After you have had your
yearbook picture taken...
Come to
DAVID'S PHOTO STUDIO

for a **FREE SITTING**
The very best in
graduation photographs



Call for appointment
288-1923

1231 Ste. Catherine St. W.
#307
(near Drummond)



BY PAT MICELLI

TORONTO (CUP) —

York University has decided to cancel an hour of classes on December fourth in memory of the 14 women killed at L'Ecole Polytechnique three years ago.

York's senate canceled the classes so students, faculty and teaching assistants would be free to take part in annual Women's Remembrance Day events.

Although no one voted against the proposal, many faculty members complained there wasn't enough advance notice of the cancellation.

"It's not fair to students and those planning courses," Professor Sydney Kanya-Forstner told the meeting.

"If we want to send a message we should do it properly. It should be announced in advance, permanent and official," he added.

York registrar Gene Denzel also spoke against the proposal. Denzel said he was concerned that canceling classes would affect students' opportunity to learn.

"Fees and funds are largely centred around classroom learning," he said.

But student council president Nikki Gershman said women's safety is equally important.

"If we can't guarantee the safety of the women who come here to learn, I'm not convinced we are committed to accessibility," she said.

Gershman cited examples of threats to female students at universities, including a September incident at York where a man shouted, "Long live Marc Lepine. All the 15 000 women at York should be killed," in front of a bookstore line up.



SUSAN VIVIAN

Michele Chai, a student council vice-president, told the senate a personal experience in order to convince it of the importance of the vigil.

"As a woman who has been a survivor of sexual assault on this campus in my second year, I find it frustrating to listen to thoughtless, by-the-way justifications for not supporting [the cancellation of classes]," said a visibly angry Chai.

"How can I learn if I don't feel safe going to school?" she added.

Chai said steps have to be taken so that women feel safe about organizing in the face of violence.

"An hour off so women can empower themselves, mourn and deal

with the reality is not a lot to ask," said Chai.

A similar proposal was introduced to the senate last year, but failed to win support. The senate executive was instead given the responsibility of creating a policy but did not follow through.

York's Women's Centre and the student council introduced this year's proposal, which was supported by the Canadian Federation of Students as well as a number of campus groups, officials and the senate's student caucus.

To mourn the deaths of the 14 women, Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. cancels classes for the entire day.

events

Un Québec pour tout le monde, benefit concert at Foufounes électriques for "zero tolerance" against racism. Saturday, November 21, 20h00.

Latitudes: McGill Journal of Developing Areas Studies is looking for editors for this year's edition. If you are interested call Boub at 847-0549.

A symposium on outer space in the 1990's: the role of arms control, organized by the Centre for Research in Air and Space Law, will be held on November 11-13 at the Faculty of Law, 3644 Peel, Moot Court. For information and/or registration: tel. 398-5093

Meir Pa'il-former member of the Israeli Knesset. "Imagine Israel at Peace." 12h20 at Hillel, 3460 Stanley. 845-9171 for info.

Sexual Assault Outreach Program, sponsored by Hillel and Pi Lambda Phi Frat. 19h00, 3460 Stanley. 845-9171 for info.

All of McGill's various student groups are invited to a meeting on Wednesday November 11th, 17h00, Shatner 425. We will be discussing the appearance of KKK material on campus, as well as the need for all the groups to form a coalition. Please send a representative from your organization.

The 15th Osler lectureship will be given today at 18h00 in Leacock 132. Dr Robert Jay Lifton, professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the City University of New York, will be speaking about "learning from Nazi doctors: medicalized killing and beyond."

McGill University Cricket Club, annual awards and dinner night. 14th November 1992, Thompson House, 3650 McTavish, 18h00. Members \$5, non-members \$7. Call Marc for tickets, 843-6366.

Presbyterian United Church Chaplaincy and the Yellow Door, sponsoring "The Story teller: Tales from many traditions" tonight: Pat Dillon (West Indian). 20h00, Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer. \$2, for info: 398-4104/6243.

McGill Outing Club presents "How to shit in the woods". A multi-media (well, not that multi), presentation on low impact shitting whilst in the bush, tundra, etc. Today, 19h30, Leacock 232.

Informal Consultation on "Unity in Diversity", Presbyterian college Rm 2 (corner Milton and University), 16h30. All welcome! Sponsored by the association for the Baha'i Studies.

Artifacts and remains being destroyed in building of office tower

Unearthing of "Negro's Burial Ground" controversial

BY MARIAME KABA

When the US government started building an office building in downtown New York, they unearthed more than dirt when laying the foundations. The skeletal remains found on the site indicated it was the site of a black cemetery of the 1700s.

The controversy over how to deal with the burial site is indicative of the treatment of African-Americans over the centuries.

In the summer of 1991, the Gen-

nummeries and outcries..."

The burial ground operated from 1700 to 1790 as the final resting place for Africans in New York City. This area was deemed a great place for the African dead because at the time it was outside city limits. It is estimated that as many as 20 000 bodies were buried there.

In its initial stage, mistakes plagued the excavation as nearly 20 graves were uprooted and plundered by construction crews, despite of numerous assurances by the GSA that construction would take a back seat to the careful handling of the archaeological dig. They maintained that no remains or artifacts would be endangered.

This promise was backed up by William J Diamond, regional administrator of the GSA.

"There will be in no speeding up that will endangered the artifacts in any way, shape or form," said Diamond. "The construction will have to take

torically black university.

Another point of contention was the lack of Black archaeologists on the project.

In order to raise some of these questions in the public forum, Senator Patterson and the Ad hoc Committee launched a petition campaign demanding reinterment of the bones on site, establishment of a memorial/museum dedicated to the African ancestors, designation of the site as a National Historic Landmark and reparations for damage done to the site.

At that point, the site became the focus of an intense political dispute as Mayor Dinkins and other fought

successfully to halt the federal construction project.

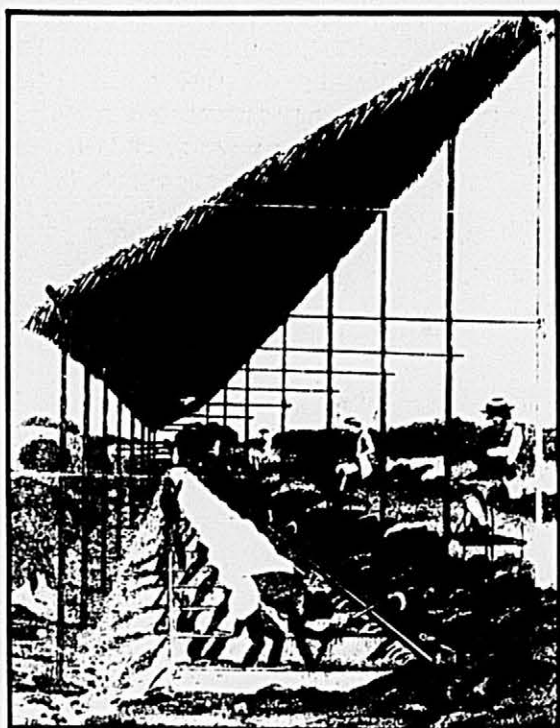
Hearings are being held to designate the cemetery as a federal historic site. This would prevent future desecration of the cemetery. Yet in the midst of all this political haggling, many have lost sight of the significance of this find for the documentation of African History and World History as a whole.

Preliminary studies of the 500 skeletons have yielded a lot about 18th century life. Scholars estimate that 50 per cent of the black population died at birth or in the first years of life. The adults lived to about the age of 30. The cemetery also offers insight into the diet and

burial customs like the use of shrouds, and certain kinds of caskets may shed some light on the countries of origin of some of these people. It was also discovered that some people were buried with coins in their hands or over their eyes. One man was buried with a shell next to the head.

According to M. Pagano, the city's urban archaeologist, "That ties into one of the traditional sayings, 'by the sea we came, by the sea we shall go,' but was perhaps symbolic of spiritual freedom."

I, for one, pray and hope that the ancestors did find their way back across the sea and were finally able to rest in peace.



eral Services Administration (GSA) of the US government began excavation for the construction of a 34 story, \$375 million office tower in lower Manhattan. When construction workers began digging up skeletal remains in early September 1991, no questions were asked about what was being unearthed.

In October 1991, a team of archaeologists were called in to examine what appeared to be six different deposits of human bones. The construction workers had uncovered what was believed to be the Nations only Colonial era burial ground for slaves and free blacks. The "Negro's Burial Ground," as it had been called since the early 1700s, was familiar to contemporary historians. However there had been no way of telling how much of it — if any — existed to this day.

An 1865 edition of the Valentine Manual, a historical reference text, includes the following on the "Negro's Burial Ground":

"Beyond the commons lay what in the earliest settlement of the town (New York) had been appropriated as a burial place imported hither in slave ships, and retaining their native superstitions and burial customs, among which was that of burying by night, with various

second place. The dollars will not drive this project."

The failure of this promise has motivated many African-Americans to action. The disrespect and the desecration of the graves prompted Senator David Patterson of Harlem to form an Ad Hoc Committee for the oversight of the burial ground.

Senator Patterson echoed the sentiments of many African American New Yorkers when he objected to the destruction of the cemetery.

"It's bad enough that all of the bodies that are in those tombs were discriminated against in life," said Patterson. "But now they're being discriminated against in death."

The issue of how to proceed with this matter became a very difficult and emotional one for the black community of New York.

Many considered the site to be sacred ground, some wanted the remains reentered on site, others wanted to see the bones buried elsewhere. Still another group favoured research on the bones while others called that blasphemy.

Many questions were left unanswered as a result of the findings, such as why 500 remains that have been recovered so far were housed at Lehman College, not at a his-

WOMEN'S BRIEFS

Eating disorders in Victoria

VICTORIA (CUP) — The BC government will be reminded of the need for an eating disorders program in Victoria tomorrow. There have been four eating disorder related deaths in the Victoria area in the past five months.

"It's going to be a very peaceful walk," said Dr. James Kirkpatrick, who sees people with anorexia and bulimia in his general practice. "There will be no finger pointing."

The demonstrators are asking the B.C. government for support of a community based clinic with nurses, a nutritionist, and a doctor.

"I've seen well over 400 patients with anorexia and bulimia (in Victoria) over the past three years," he said.

Kirkpatrick said up to 20 per cent of women at university have an eating disorder.

"The mortality rate for anorexia and bulimia is between 18 and 20 per cent. That's 20 out of 100," said Kirkpatrick. "I've seen 400, so that's 80 who are going to die either directly or indirectly from eating disorders."

"We just want people to know it's happening, and not to be blind to it," said Lori Assheton-Smith, president of the B.C. Eating Disorders Association, and a UVic law student.

"There is more awareness than there was a year ago," she said.

Barbie no bimbo

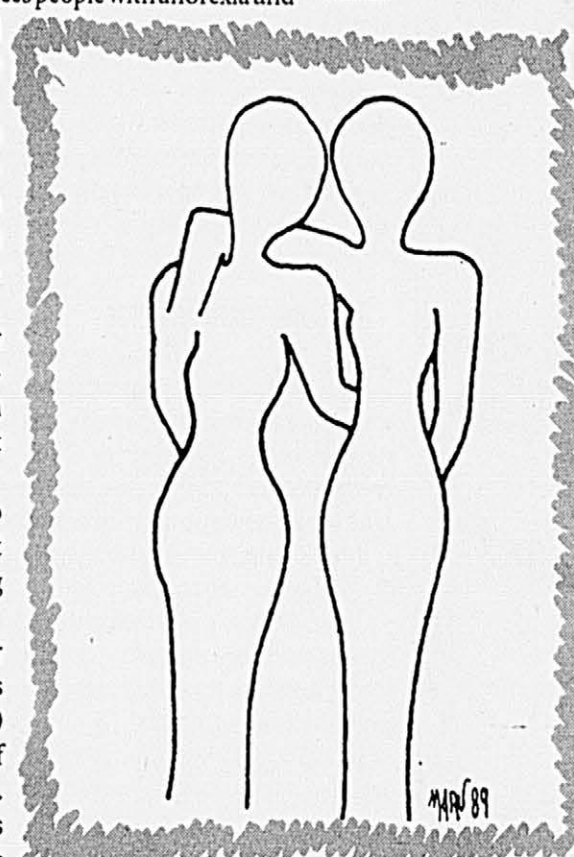
TORONTO (CUP) — The makers of Barbie have recently agreed to stop including the phrase, "math class is tough" in the recorded messages played by its Teen Talk Barbie after public complaints that the phrase conveyed a discouraging message to young girls about math.

Other phrases said by the teen Barbie include — "I love school, don't you?", "I'm going to be a doctor" and "Ken, let's go for Pizza."

Members of the U of Toronto's science community were upset to hear that Barbie is telling young

girls that math is hard.

"I never had any problems with math, I love it," said Caroline Zywlko, an engineering student and secretary of the Engineering Society. Recalling her own experience as a strong math student she said girls should have support, not discouragement in math.



But Jane Larkin, a psychology lecturer at U of T, said the recent math incident is only a small part of the problem Barbie presents to women.

"Barbie reflects a false image women get throughout their whole lives in women's magazines and on TV," said Larkin.

Many are concerned that Barbie hating math will be a bad influence on the next generation of female scientists.

Mattel interviewed thousands of young women in the US in a market survey before choosing the sentences for the new talking Barbie.

Barbie sales amount to \$840 million a year for the US-based company.

Foiled fraternities

Off Our Backs — Women at Duke University successfully disrupted traditional frat celebrations this year.

The frats traditionally hold "Cattle Roundups" — frat parties to which only first year female students were invited. But when fliers went up to advertise this year's parties, so did fliers from the Duke Women's Coalition.

Coalition members warned students about connections between heavy drinking at parties and date rape. They also sat outside some of the frats to help drunken guests get back to their dorms safely.

Student pressure also caused the withdrawal of a particularly offensive advertisement for a "Carnal Knowledge" party from the local student newspaper.

—compiled by Susan Vivian

Government fails to address

New prosperity report sho

BY DAMION STODOLA

At last the government has claimed it has a solution for our economic and educational woes.

A 20 million dollar report was introduced to parliament recently which claims to "recapture the pioneering spirit that built our nation and apply it to the challenges that confront us..."

The report's mandate was to discover what Canadians thought of the educational system, Canada's economic situation and opportunities for aboriginals. The result is a 75 page report comprising of 54 action plans. It aims to provide governments and Canadians with an agenda by which to get the country back on track.

Specifically, the report attempts to change the focus of education to a competence-based system which places more importance on results and performance.

The report also encourages educational institutions to develop stronger ties with businesses to better enable students to enter the workforce.

While business leaders and the Tory government praise this report as a progressive document, some student politicians condemn the report as a license for the government to neglect the most important student concerns and educational problems.

Committee and report biased

Student politicians criticize the committee for not representing a wide spectrum of viewpoints. All 20 members of the steering committee hail from large Canadian corporations and educational administrations.

McGill Principal David Johnston is a member of the steering committee.

Jason Prince, president of the Students' Society, said the committee is obviously biased. "Just look at the members of the committee."

Johnston said the committee was not entirely composed of business leaders, citing the example of committee co-chair Marie-Josée Drouin, executive director of the Hudson Institute of Canada. The Hudson institute is a public interest group.

Drouin and the other co-chair David McCamus, CEO of Xerox, were appointed by minister of trade Michael Wilson and minister of immigration Bernard Valcourt.

While the report claims to have "opened up dialogue among Canadians from every walk of life", critics claim the white-collar bias of the committee is to blame for its narrowness.

Kelly Lamrock, chair for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) said the report does not address the most pressing student issues, namely accessibility of education, tuition levels, student aid and diversity.

"It is a \$20 million waste of taxpayers' money," said Lamrock. "There are practically no concrete ideas in the report. It's a collection of the same platitudes that got us into the economic problem we're in now."

Many proposals — no money

While the report calls for a refocusing and retooling of the education system, it is unclear where the money is going to come from. Lately the government has been far from generous, and the report's call for further reductions in the deficit is unlikely to change the situation.

University of Toronto Economics professor Mel Watkins said that if the government reduced the deficit, as the report advised, then increased spending on job retraining would be useless.

"The notion of doing job training while destroying jobs is a basic contradiction. It's called a prosperity initiative but what is happening in Canada is certainly not prosperity," said Watkins.

According to a CFS report, cuts in Federal spending on education over the past two years, combined with the recent three year freeze on transfer payments for higher education, will result in a \$9 billion dollar loss in real terms for education by the year 1994-1995.

Lamrock said the moderator of a Kingston meeting between committee members and students made it clear that no proposals requiring government spending would be considered.

"The committee already had a predetermined set of answers," said Lamrock.

Steering committee member Veronica Lacey, director of the North York Board of Education, said Lamrock misinterpreted the moderators comment, and that although minor expenditures on some programs would be allowed, the recession made it difficult for the government to spend a lot of money. "We simply said major government expenditures are unrealistic at this time," she said.

But Lamrock said limiting government expenditures narrows the discussion regarding important student issues.

"Already you have ruled out the possibility of dealing with student aid and accessibility," said Lamrock.

Lacey said issues such as tuition and student aid were not discussed in the report because of the multitude of issues covered, and not because of government expenditure cuts.

"There are so many issues. We have to make a choice and prioritize the issues we wanted to discuss."

Lacey maintains a discussion of all the issues would result in a report too lengthy to be digested by the population. "Discussing all issues would have resulted in 150 page report."

Lamrock said the report is merely a document reinforcing the status quo. "The government knew what they wanted and this report only enforces its course of action."

Calling for a 30 per cent yearly increase in computers and software in schools, the report lays this responsibility on cash-strapped school administrations and communities who can expect no federal or provincial aid.

The report also recommends schools "tailor programs to individual student needs and adopting flexible teaching methods" all of which imply high costs in retraining teachers and providing more services to students.

Lacey claimed large expenditures were inappropriate during these hard economic times but said the government had no control over the committee's recommendations.

"I'm a volunteer on this committee. I wouldn't be doing this if I thought nothing would result," said Lacey.

Report's priorities in question

While Prince agreed with a need to reform the educational system, he was skeptical about the partnership between industry and education proposed by the report.

"The report attempts to marry industry and education," said Prince. "There is no talk of the humanities or the value of an arts education."

Lamrock said the new focus on business-school partnerships could eventually cause schools to become solely skills factories and re-training institutions.

"When you talk about education you must learn how to learn and not just acquire marketable skills," said Lamrock. "A system based solely on training and re-training leaves out critical thought."

Unfortunately the report does not address the partnership between unions and labour with education.

Ron Duhamel, Liberal critic of the Secretary of State emphasized the need for balance.

"I'm not concerned about the business partnership, provided other groups are given the same access," Duhamel said it is essential that student unions become involved.

Lacey said unions and business are all clients of the system and should be involved. "The education system needs to be more responsive to all its clients," she said.

Lacey argued that business and education too often work independently of each other without adequate consultation. "The largest problem is that we work in isolated societies," said Lacey.

University of Toronto management professor J. R. D'Cruz, also a member of the

student concerns

rt on concrete solutions

steering committee, said stronger links with the private sector were necessary to maintain a high quality, relevant education system.

"Right now we are encouraging mediocrity. You don't build excellent institutions by spreading your national resources evenly, you do it by specializing," said D'Cruz.

But economist Arthur Krugar, director of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, said he had grave misgivings about this approach to education. He said that by the time students are trained, the needs of the market could change dramatically.

"I am quite concerned about the recommendation that the needs of the job market drive what the university does," said Krugar. "Our ability to foresee the needs of the market are very poor. Any forecast about computers 40 years ago would have been completely wrong."

Krugar added that if partnership with the private sector became a high priority for universities, then resources would be directed away from the humanities and pure sciences, because they don't provide a quick enough financial return.

"It raises concerns about their understanding of what the university is all about. Would they hire a Plato or an Aristotle? There would be no place for them," he said. "We have to make sure our kids are literate and numerate and have knowledge about computers but also about literature, history and languages."

Proposals redundant & vague

Critics have also attacked the report for its vagueness and redundancy. A recent *Gazette* editorial criticized the report for proposing no new ideas.

Duhamel agreed the proposals are redundant.

"There is nothing particularly dramatic in the report," said Duhamel. "They have talked

about these proposals for decades in the educational field." Duhamel said what needs to be done is to devise ways of putting ideas into practice.

Lacey argues that the report is not vague. "The report outlines the criteria for a successful educational system," said Lacey. "It answers how to motivate institutions to become responsive to society."

Lacey said that if ideas are good, we shouldn't refrain from talking about them. "When you can demonstrate you have learned it, then I will stop teaching it."

The report also set deadlines for its proposals, with the latest expiring five years from now.

Duhamel said he hoped the government wasn't trying to boost its popularity by setting demanding deadlines.

"I hope the government did not set unrealistic goals to impress upon Canadians that they are doing something," he said.

"It's a political exercise more than an economic one," said Watkins. "The report cost \$19 million to make, that's about \$1000 a word. I think we have to say we didn't get our money's worth."

Student groups not consulted: public unaware

Sandwiched between the demise of the referendum and the US election, the report received almost no media coverage. "Few Canadians knew what was going on," said Lamrock. "There was a zero publicity budget."

But Johnston said the report was made available to the public. "A lot of money was spent to alert people," said Johnston. "There was no absence of knowledge of the report."

Among the Canadians who did not know what was going on were Dean of Arts John McCallum and Dean of Engineering Pierre Bélanger. Both said they did not know the report existed.



Johnston said it was not the deans' responsibility to keep track of every report he works on. "The report will take some time to circulate," he said.

The *Daily* obtained the report after three phone calls trying to locate the 'report hotline.' Lamrock said a reason the report was very low key was it doesn't contain any concrete suggestions. "The report is akin to a dilution of the status quo," said Lamrock.

Lamrock claimed the report which supposedly reflected what 'everyday Canadians' think neglected to contact student groups. Consultation of students was limited to open general meetings, said Lamrock.

But Johnston said extensive efforts were made to inform the public and any proposals from student groups would have been strongly welcomed. "The same invitation was made to all groups." The committee called general meetings in 23 different schools across the country between mid-February and mid-June.

Duhamel said the exclusion of student groups is a weakness in the report. "They should have been consulted. It is terribly disappointing."

Lacey maintained extensive efforts were engaged in contacting all sectors of the population. "We contacted groups and individuals who would not normally have a voice in these reports," said Lacey. "We contacted single mothers on welfare in one of the most difficult areas of North York."

— Additional reporting by Naomi Klein, CUP

We encourage all students to get a copy of the report. It is available free of charge by calling 1-800-387-9601 or by going to the Tour de la Bourse, 800 Square Victoria, on the 38th floor.

Ottawa's report and its effects

THE GOVERNMENT'S ANSWER TO OUR ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN NEATLY COMPILED IN OTTAWA'S NEW PROSPERITY REPORT. WRITTEN BY A 20 MEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE COMPRISED MAINLY OF BUSINESS CEO'S, THE REPORT SUGGESTS 17 WAYS TO IMPROVE THE AILING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

THE BASIC PREMISE OF THE REPORT IS THE NEED FOR MORE BUSINESS AND SCHOOL INTERACTION. TO ACHIEVE THIS, ACTION 27 OF THE REPORT SUPPORTS CHANGING THE FOCUS OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO A COMPETENCE-BASED SYSTEM WHICH BASES PERFORMANCE ON RESULTS.

THE AIM OF COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION IS TO GIVE STUDENTS "THE ABILITY TO DO CERTAIN THINGS AND ACCOMPLISH SPECIFIC TASKS" BY FOCUSING ON RESULTS.

ACTION 31 FAVOURS BRINGING THE WORLD OF WORK INTO SCHOOL "TO ENSURE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY TO ENTER THE WORLD OF WORK WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES."

BY FAVOURING THE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES, AND ENCOURAGING TEACHERS TO SPEND TIME IN LOCAL BUSINESSES, THE REPORT HOPES TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS-COMMUNITY RELATIONS.

ACTION 32 TRIES TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUT RATE BUT ITS FIRST SUGGESTION IS "TO ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS HAVE A MENTOR."

STUDENTS' SOCIETY PRESIDENT JASON PRINCE SAID THE REPORT IGNORES MANY IMPORTANT FACTORS. "THE STUDY MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO LINK THE DROP-OUT TREND WITH POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT OR THE ECONOMY."

THE REPORT CALLS FOR MORE FLEXIBLE TEACHING METHODS BUT DOES NOT RECOMMEND WHAT CHANGES TO MAKE OR WHERE THE MONEY FOR SUCH CHANGES IS SUPPOSED TO COME FROM.

ACTION 33, 36 AND 37 ENCOURAGE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO INCREASE THEIR USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTERS IN ORDER TO REALIZE MORE FLEXIBILITY.

THEY SUGGEST "USING EXISTING TELEPHONE AND CABLE LINES TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE AND INEXPENSIVE ELECTRONIC LEARNING NETWORK."

ACTIONS 41-42 SPECIFY WAYS IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL CANADIANS CAN EXPAND THEIR HORIZONS AND ACHIEVE GREATER LEARNING.

WHILE MANY OF THESE ACTIONS ARE WORTH RETAINING, THE REPORT FAILS MISERABLY TO DEAL WITH ISSUES SUCH AS DIVERSITY AND STUDENT AID.

PHRASES SUCH AS "INCREASING POTENTIAL" AND "LEARNING SUCCESS" SIMPLY DILUTE THE WORTH OF THE PROPOSALS.

PRINCE SAID THE REPORT FOCUSES TOO MUCH ON PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS. "WHAT HAPPENED TO INDEPENDENT THOUGHT?" SAID PRINCE. "WE ARE NOT COGS IN A MACHINE."

THE MCGILL DAILY

editorial

You call that a survey?

The university mailed out their long awaited sexual harassment survey last week. And in true McGill style, the survey is not only six months late, but went \$5000 over budget, bringing the total cost to \$15 000.

If the university had hired statisticians to develop, research, and perfect the survey, \$15 000 of students money could be considered well spent. But they didn't. The sexual harassment survey currently circulating was developed by the University of Manitoba, not McGill.

Perhaps the University of Manitoba collects royalties for the use of its survey — if not, I wonder what could have ever cost \$15 000. Stamps? Paper?

The questions the survey asks of students and staff at McGill are designed to reveal our knowledge, or ignorance, of sexual harassment. Chances are the survey results will point to a need for education, so we will all be able to recognize when we are the objects of, or committing, acts of sexual harassment.

The university seems to assume we need education on sexual harassment. But they never once consulted any of the student organizations on campus that deal directly with the issue. Furthermore, student leaders of these organizations were not even permitted to have a copy of the questionnaire or, god forbid, fill it out.

Student-initiated projects addressing crucial issues of sexual harassment policies at McGill are continuously ignored by the university. Had the sexual harassment assessors who are administering the survey collaborated with the student organizations, they would have benefited greatly from their hands-on experience. They might have learned that what is really at issue with regards to sexual harassment at McGill is a sexual harassment procedure which fails entirely to address the needs of the less-powerful — usually students.

If McGill really wanted to know about sexual harassment at McGill they could have consulted those on campus who have tried to use the sexual harassment procedures. They could have asked a PhD student who spoke up about sexual harassment and is now banned from campus so McGill can protect its prize professors.

But McGill decided to exclude these people. Exclude them for knowing too much. Exclude them for being "educated".

Education is always worth while, but it is not enough in and of itself. Without concrete changes to the process for filing and trying sexual harassment cases, no amount of education will alter the very real conditions under which sexual harassment at McGill takes place.

Susan Vivian (endorsed by the staff at *The McGill Daily*)

letters

To the Daily:

But especially to Don McGowan, "Special Student" (Nov. 4, letters): I know what you mean about the "Dailies of Old." I too miss the bitter denunciations and volleys of invective that sometimes spanned a month's worth of Daily letters pages.

However, C. Doersken, Visiting Student (pretty much his real name) reached escape velocity this summer and finally departed from the McGill community and this august journal's epistolary vortex.

Keep hope, I say, for we always have a new generation of insufficiently busy students to step into those shoes. Consider the case of "Ian Hay, U1 Arts," whose letter of Nov. 5 is at least as likely to earn him taunts of "racist" as anything we read last year.

While I am writing anyway, I'd like to know what gives with this S&M exposé, "Regarding the Leather Scene"

(Nov. 4). These guys are supposed to be major league sexual deviants?

I rather suspect the Marquis de Sade would be loathe to take a shit on these whitebread poseurs and I hardly think ol' Sacher-Masoch would be fully satisfied by having his head immersed in oatmeal. The breakfast food of Wilford Brimley is not the stuff of fringe sexuality (at least not as we usually conceive of it.)

To say that this role-playing stuff, with its rhetoric of "respect," "sensitivity" and "safety" has anything to do with either of S&M's namesakes is like saying that some sci-fi-loving, pencil-necked player of Dungeons & Dragons (an only slightly more appealing past-time) is, in fact, Conan the Barbarian. I think it's a pretty clear sign of endemic social and moral decline when this is what passes for sexual deviance in our culture.

M. Doersken, Visiting Student



hyde park

Umm, excuse me...

Opinion by Chuck McDonald, Master's student in Earth and Planetary Sciences.

"What are we agreeing to here?"

This question was originally posed by Jay Pan et al. (Daily, 23 September) expressing not only their concerns but also some of their sarcasm. That letter, taken more or less seriously by some, has been targeted for its allusions to communism and the downfall of "humanity as we know it" in the form of a union which all right-thinking people just know is the only way to preserve democracy in this hemisphere.

Mr. Bourdeau (Daily, 5 October) says that we are now "an association of employees." Well that's a twist. Having been admitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research, I could've sworn we were an academic body. I'm here for a degree after all. And to get this degree I'm required to spend some late nights in the lab, utilize my weekend hours to complete projects, and even do an amount of work in the field. Whining! No, this is what's required.

When I was accepted to McGill, I was sent details of the degree requirements, TA/RA award and responsibilities, course information, and a form to sign saying I agreed to it all as part of my stay here. And you were too.

I was accepted to three graduate institutions last year: two in Geology and one in Philosophy (my other undergraduate major). After careful consideration of the program, facilities, location, and, yes, financial support, I chose McGill. The support McGill offered made it possible for me to attend and, at least for Geology, it's at par with North American universities; if they offered less, students would go elsewhere.

I have every sympathy for a Graduate student who's got a shoddy TAsip. But surely they read the conditions of acceptance McGill sent them before they came. Why choose McGill if these were unsatisfactory? It wouldn't take too many years with no grad students for the

more TA-abusive departments to wise up fast.

In any case, TAsip aren't the only source of funding. According to Mike Temelini, past president of PGSS among other things, "there are always outside sources of funding" (Address to the Adams Club, 16 September). He even suggested that the Alma Mater Fund's cause one year could be to raise money for TAs in underfunded departments.

So just what are we agreeing to here? A clean and safe way to provide every TA with a laughing, happy department relationship that tastes good and is good for you, too? A behemoth that represents Québec TAs across four different universities to bargain for us, too, if that's even possible? Perhaps a club for the elite among us who are convinced that what we need is a union run by them?

I want to know, just what are we agreeing to?

All readers are welcome to submit letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and telephone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.

Sign your title Dan!

To The Daily:

I am quite disturbed by Daniel Koffler's continuous attempts at masking his identity in his letters. To the uninformed reader he appears to be only a political science student who has some knowledge of the concern on

campus which pertains to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In fact, he is the president of one of the two primary groups involved in this issue. Mister Koffler, is it not considered an honour to receive any position of leadership at a prestigious university, either by election or by appointment?

Why, then, do you neglect your title from your signature? I am concerned that you find your association with Hillel to be a public embarrassment and that perhaps they should seek a president who would be proud of their cause.

Melony Jamieson, U3 North American Studies

ERRATA

Corey Dufresne is not a member of Beta Theta Pi as stated in Monday's General Assembly article (front page, Nov. 9). He is a member of Phi Delta Theta.



All contents ©1992 Daily Publications Society. All rights reserved. The content of this newspaper is the responsibility of the McGill Daily and does not necessarily represent the views of McGill University or the Students' Society of McGill University. Products or companies advertised in this newspaper are not necessarily endorsed by the Daily staff. Printed by Interhauf Developments Inc., Montréal, Québec. The Daily is a founding member of Canadian University Press, Presse étudiante du Québec, Publi-Peq and CampusPlus. Printed on 100% recycled paper. ISSN 1192-4608

co-ordinating editor: Dan Robins
co-ordinating news editor: Fiona McCaw
culture editor: Kate Stewart
features editor: —
news editors: Dave Ley, Susan Vivian
science editor: —
design & layout editors: Zack Taylor, Chloé Town
daily français: Natasha Blanchet-Cohen
photo editor: Tony Revoy
liaison editor: Michael Rottmayer

business manager:
Marian Schrier
assistant business manager:
Jo-Anne Pickel
advertising managers:
Boris Shedov, Olga Kontozissi
advertising layout and design:
Rob Costain

contributors:
Damian Stodola, Ron Lachman,
Kathy Bunka, Miriam Kaba,
Hugo de Burgos, Nadine Lee,
Hari Variantzas

Business and Advertising Office: 3480 McTavish, room B-17 Montréal, Québec H3A 1X9 (514) 398-6790
Editorial Offices: 3480 McTavish, room B-03 Montréal, Québec H3A 1X9 telephone (514) 398-6784 fax: (514) 398-8318

classified ads

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.**

The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

2 - Movers/Storage

Moving/Storage. Closed van or truck. Local and long distance. Olt-Tor-Van-NY-Fla. 7 days 24 hours. Cheap. Steve 735-8148.

Moving Service Available. Alex 324-3794.

3 - Help Wanted

Wanted: motivated, committed, hard-working individuals to run their own summer painting business. College Pro Painters still has excellent franchises available. Average net summer profit: \$10,000. 874-0352 9-5 pm.

UNLIMITED EARNINGS. Major long distance telecommunications company is seeking representatives to register residential and business customers who can save up to 60% on international long distance telephone calls. Work at your own pace and hours. Earnings Guaranteed. New representatives must speak a language other than French or English (for example Greek, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, etc.) call 276-9437.

4 - Jobs Wanted

WORDPROCESSING laser printing. Reports, manuscripts, correspondence, etc. Also graphics and spreadsheets. Fast, accurate, professional. Call 695-3391 and leave a message.

5 - Typing Services

Success to all students. WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, resumés. 24 yrs. experience. \$1.75 double space, 7 days/week. Rapid service. On campus - Peel/Sherbrooke. Paulette Vigneault or Roxanne 288-9638, 288-0016.

Term papers, theses, CV's typed accurately by experienced typist. Reasonable. looks good on a laser printer. Located in the "ghetto." 843-3449.

Word Processing and Resumé Service. Professional, bilingual, fast and accurate. Seven days/week. Term papers, manuscripts, correspondence. Near Vendôme Metro. Reasonable rates. 485-4780.

WORD PROCESSING. 937-8495 Term papers, resumés, manuscripts, correspondence (Laser Printer) 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Atwater).

Accurate and prompt word processing, laser printer: term papers, theses, reports, resumés (editing, page layout), pick-up and delivery. Alan 289-9518.

RESUMÉS by MBAs. Student rates. Better Business Bureau Member. 3000+ students served. Owner worked for Procter & Gamble, Heinz and General Foods. PRESTIGE (on Guy) 939-2200.

Word Processing (French-English) Any type of student work - Laser Print - Lotus 1-2-3. Micheline Marques 722-6966/397-2055.

Wordprocessing - Excellent quality, fast, reasonable, English, French. Macintosh formatting. Also mathematics Ph.D., tutoring available - All levels 489-2665.

Typing and editing, if necessary, of term papers, theses, letters, etc., with Brother electronic typewriter. \$1.75 double spaced. Accurate and prompt. Graduate background. 326-2698.

WORD PROCESSING of term papers, theses, reports, etc. Experienced. WordPerfect 5.1, Laser Printer. Reliable, accurate, fast. Good rates. Close to McGill. Call Brigitte 282-0301.

Support a starving graduate student! Will type **anything**. \$1.50/page. Pick-up and delivery. Laser print. Call Lauren 341-7025.

6 - Services Offered

Student vacation specials 1993 January/Spring Break everything included from: Cancun \$589 2 weeks \$699 Venezuela \$549 Daytona \$299. Group rates anywhere. Luc days 861-9090.

Complete photo-finishing. laminations. Pewter, silver, gift items, camera repairs, etc... Discount with I.D. Ryan Photo 4858A Park Ave. 273-5774.

Macintosh Tutoring: From desktop basics to high-end applications. Finder, System 7, Microsoft Word 4 & 5, FreeHand, PageMaker, Norton Utils, disk management, etc. Also: choosing the right equipment for your needs. \$20/session. Leave message at 457-3639.



With more calls than Jerry Lewis. 398-6246.

7 - For Sale

SOFA FOR SALE. 4 seater sofa. Excellent condition. Light brown. Must sell - Best offer - 486-6694.

Single bed (mattress and base) in perfect condition + 2 drawers. \$300. Ask Bertrand 389-4463.

Chevette 82 150,000 km excellent condition, no rust, good maintenance \$700.00. 489-7443. Private.

Computer Must Sell - Moving. 386-33, 4Mb RAM, 64K cache, 120Mb HD, SVGA Monitor & card (1024 x 768 x 256), 2400bd modem, Adlib sound card, mouse, tower case, lots of software: Win. 3.1, DTP, music, games, etc. Only \$1499. 935-8836 Raymond.

10 - Rides/Tickets

TICKET Montreal-Vancouver - one-way. Depart 18th November - Mirabel. Male - \$200 or nearest offer. Call 672-5564 (Sean) or 398-7375 (Bernice).

Ride needed to Toronto for the weekend of November 13th. I will be happy to split gas and expenses. Call Lara at 989-1397.

11 - Lost & Found

Sounds Crazy, but if you/friend found a cat this July - Small, skinny, black & beige striped, green eyes, female, McGill ghetto - Please call 845-9577.

12 - Personal

Discussion Group - Organized by Students from families of Jewish and non-Jewish parents. Everyone welcome to explore, discuss in open, nonjudgemental environment. Call Hillel 845-9171.

All I want for my birthday is a **Ben & Jerry's** ice cream cake. Hint, hint, hint. For info call 286-6073. 1316 de Maisonneuve W.

13 - Lessons/Courses

The Linguistic Exchange Club "Practice another language, make a new friend" Exchange your language for English, Français, Español, Deutsch, etc. \$60 yr. (\$30 students) 592-5118.

"Law School Bound?" For information about a complete manual designed to guide you through every step of the law admissions process - Call 1-800-661-LSAT (5728).

14 - Notices

LAND'END clothing for men, women and children. Hard to find sizes. Lower comparable prices. Send \$2 for colour catalogue to C.G. Enterprise, Box. 364, Bklyn, NY 11203.



TODAY - 12:30 MEIR PAIL, former member of Israel Knesset. 7:00 pm - Sexual Assault Outreach Program, in conjunction with Pi Lambda Phi. 3460 Stanley. 845-9171.

Interfaith Dialogue: Students getting together to learn about and share experiences on vital issues concerning their faith. First meeting Monday, Nov. 16th, 7:30 p.m. Registration Rev. Roberta Clare 398-4104. McGill Chaplaincy.

Tacos. Si, Si. Vegetarian & Meat. Hillel, 3460 Stanley. Today from 11:00am-7:00pm.

Afraid to walk the streets? Protect yourself! Self-defense spray incapacitates an attacker in 2 seconds. Jessie 598-9783.

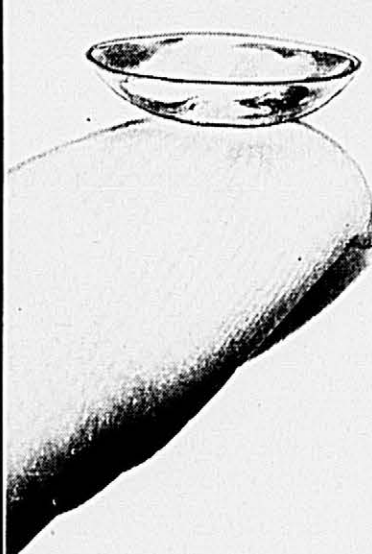
LBGM Meeting!! Come one, come all! Thursday, November 12, 6:00 at 550 Sherbrooke W., Rm. 1170 to discuss dance, peer counselling, etc.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) is restarting peer counselling. Anyone interested in finding out about LBGM or has questions about their sexuality is welcome to drop by room 417, Shatner or call 398-6822. Hours are during lunch and 7 to 10, Monday through Saturday.

16 - Musicians

Drummer, looking for rock band to join. Call Ziad 769-8743.

Soft Contact Lenses



SPECIAL

on daily wear

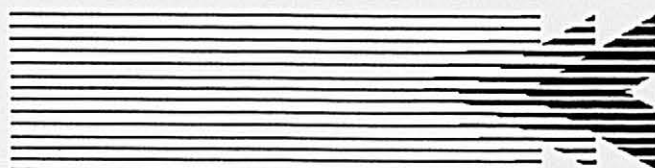
\$99.00

+ Get a Free spare pair of soft lenses

Offer expires Nov. 30, 1992

Barlow & Barlow

For more information

1525 Sherbrooke W.
corner Guy
931-8817Les Galeries des Sources
3129 boul. des Sources
684-1423COOP
McGILL

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To be held on Friday, November 13, 1992 at 6:00 p.m.
in the Leacock Building, Room 26, Main Floor
(McGill University)

855 Sherbrooke West, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2T7

All regular members are welcome.



THE AGENDA

1. Opening of the Assembly
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Dismissal of Directors
4. Election of the Board of Directors
5. Closing of the Assembly

Timothy M. Concannon
President

2029 Metcalfe • Montreal (Quebec) • H3A 1X7
Magasin Tel.: 844-COOP • McGill Tel.: 398-5001 • FAX: 844-9497

On the "New Role" of the Military in El Salvador

BY HUGO DE BURGOS

This is the transcript of an interview with Colnel Baltazar Lopez Hernandez, sub-chief of the Salvadorean High-Command and director of the Army Press. It was done at the headquarters of the Salvadorean High Command in San Salvador on August 28.

Daily: What is the new role of the military in El Salvador, if there is such a thing?

Hernandez: Undoubtedly, the recently signed peace accords between the FMLN and the Salvadorean government in Mexico have stressed the fact that the armed forces will assume a new role, although it is not exactly a new role. In fact, as we have always done, we will continue to defend the integrity of our national territory. We will also guarantee that all members of the society are able to live in liberty and democracy. In the past the armed forces were employed in a police role, however, now the army will no longer assume the functions of public security. Now, our only endeavor is to defend our country's sovereignty and to guarantee democracy.

Daily: We have heard about the purging of the Salvadorean army. What does it mean to "purge" the Salvadorean armed forces?

Hernandez: The truth is that throughout the conflict, we have been accused of corruption. There have been plenty of people who have tried to defame us. They say that we have people within our ranks who have committed crimes. Perhaps we do have individuals who have committed some types of violations. I would like to tell you that as an institution we do not fear the "purging process". As a matter of fact, the Ad Hoc commission was created for this reason. This commission which came out of a political agreement investigates and evaluates all the members of the armed institutions. Of course, I must also submit myself to this evaluation. We believe that this process will strengthen our institution and allow people to realize that we have professionally done our duty of defending our country from Marxist-Leninist aggression.

Daily: What answers do the Armed forces give to repeated accusations of high levels of corruption, crime and direct political involvement in the Salvadorean conflict?

Hernandez: I could easily give you the same answer as in the previous question. As I mentioned earlier, there are many people who have made it their main concern to defame our armed forces because according to them, we represent an obstacle for the con-

solidation of the peace process and democratization in our country. I would like to tell you that all the people in the armed forces who have in one manner or another broken the law have been placed where they belong in a professional manner. We have brought them to justice and those who have been found guilty have been sent directly to jail. Regarding money and military assistance, we have received a lot of military aid. This aid, however, has been administered directly from the US. Everything has been received in kind. We have not received a single dollar in our hands. We simply received military equipment and general logistics.

Daily: Within the new frame of peace, how does the Salvadorean army see the FMLN? Is the FMLN still seen as a military enemy or has a new relationship emerged?

Hernandez: In order to speak about our relationship with the FMLN, we must base our arguments on what happens daily. I could talk to you about the violations that the FMLN has made, especially against our population, as for example, their seizure of lands, their small interest in revealing their real inventory of arms, and their eagerness to carry out a dirty war against the national army by speaking badly about us. Nonetheless, we are now a force subject to civil law and therefore we are in full disposition to obey all the provisions of the peace accord, as long as this is done for the benefit of the majority of the Salvadorean people. We believe that if the FMLN would in a given moment start to fire ideas instead of bullets, and they start to take part in the political aspect of our society in a different manner, then I believe we would have to change our perceptions of the FMLN and of what they can do for our country.

Daily: Is there anything you would like to add?

Hernandez: Yes, I would like to tell our Canadian friends that often the media does not give them a clear idea of what is happening in El Salvador. You are just seeing one side of the coin. Our intention is not to persuade you to believe us, but to at least obtain the benefit of the doubt from you. I am warmly inviting you to visit our country so you can see that what I am saying is the truth.

Wartorn El Salvador moves towards change

BY HUGO DE BURGOS AND HARI VARIANTZAS

It has been less than a year since an agreement between the government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) ended twelve years of civil war. Though the country is changing to adapt to more peaceable times, problems which caused the civil war have yet to be solved.

About 75 000 people died in the war. One million people — a fifth of El Salvador's population — went into exile, and still more were displaced from their homes, rendered refugees in their own country. Now the people of El Salvador are engaged in the slow process of disarmament and reconstruction, in order to make a nation which is peaceful, demilitarized, and hopefully, more equitable.

In El Salvador a very small minority of the population enjoys a privileged lifestyle while the great majority of Salvadoreans are deprived of their most basic needs. Two per cent of the population owns and controls over 60 per cent of the arable land. This inequality has gravely affected the lives of the population at large in health, nutrition, housing and education.

The January peace agreement contained a plan to transform and disarm Salvadoran society. According to the agreement, the government security forces, the National Guard, the National Police Force and the Treasury police will be dismantled. The parties agreed to reduce the Army's size and power and redirected it to protecting the borders of El Salvador, rather than interfering in civilian politics.

Both sides also agreed to create a new civilian police force.

All human rights abusers are to be purged from the Army. An ad hoc committee of prominent Salvadorean citizens was given the task of determining which officers of the army were guilty of human rights abuses.

In an early September interview with the *Daily*, FMLN Comandante Nidia Diaz said he expected the changes initiated within the Military would result in real reform.

"If these accords are carried out to the letter by the military, these transformations will be profound," said Diaz.

Diaz said huge changes were needed if the army was to take its proper place in civilian society, with proper checks to make soldiers accountable to civilian government.

"According to us, the military reforms need to begin by changing the doctrine and the thinking of the army, as well as by assigning them new functions," said Diaz. "We have recently reformed the political constitution and this newly erected political body establishes the new functions of the military. It is clearly stated in the constitution that the new role of the armed forces will be to dedicate themselves to defending the sovereignty of our country."

Both the army and the FMLN are behind schedule for disarming. The ad hoc committee in charge of reviewing FMLN and army officers' human rights abuses presented its list to the United Nations and the Salvadorean government two weeks ago. The Salvadorean Minister of Defence, who was the first name on the list, has rejected it.

And the National guard, treasury police and National Police are still in existence, with changed names and uniforms.

Both the FMLN and the government are renegotiating their deadlines. Little progress has been made in land reform. Some landlords refusing to sell, and the government is refusing to buy them out, citing lack of funds.



For many Salvadoreans the most politically significant issue of the peace accords is the disarmament of the FMLN and its transformation into a civilian political party. Comandante Joel Sanchez Bonilla, member of the Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez front of the south of Mount Guazapa told the *Daily* in September that the FMLN

had set in motion the mechanisms for its own transformation.

"There is a whole contingent of combatants and high-ranking officers who are already working on the consolidation of this party. A second contingency will join the new civil police and a third will incorporate itself into the economic project in our zones of control," he said.

Bonilla cautioned that the government had to live up to its end of the bargain if the transformation was to continue. "Of course, in order to make the reconversion process possible, the government must follow through on the accords," said Bonilla. "First of all, it must create all the necessary conditions to guarantee a smooth incorporation of our forces into the reconversion process. The government has to commit to creating the appropriate political conditions which will enable our forces to work in the formation of the FMLN into a political party."

